



FI Newsletter

The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway

Fenwick Island DE 19944

Summer is quickly approaching. Spring weather has been very unpredictable this year. The Town has been very busy getting ready for our busy Summer season. When our second home residents and guests arrive, they will find Fenwick Island ready to welcome them. Our lifeguards have started, newly equipped and trained. Additional Mobi Mats have been purchased and are placed on dune crossings. These enable easier beach access by our residents of all ages. Rt 1 has been repaved and there are newly marked crosswalks and crossing lights at busy intersections. Please remember for your safety to use these marked areas when crossing our busy highway.

This letter brings 2 new additions to our Town. The first is our new Town Manager, Merritt Burke who is from Lewes DE- a true local! He has started at a very busy time but has certainly taken off with a bang and has not missed a beat. Under his direction, we have completed our Budget, dedicated our new Public Safety Building, received and applied for numerous grants, plus all the normal day to day activities. To add to this busy time, Merritt again became a father to his 3rd son!! Please come by Town Hall and say hello and introduce yourselves.

Our second addition is our new Public Safety Building located next to our park. I am very proud to have been involved in the process of making this much needed building become a reality. This building offers our Police the new technology as well as a much needed and updated space to carry out their jobs. There is also space for a life-guard office and meeting room as well. This has been an outstanding example of a Council working together along with staff and professionals to bring a dream to reality through cooperation and operating in the best interest of the task at hand. My thanks to to all those involved. I think I can speak for the entire Council in saying that we are very proud of this Building. We held a Dedication in conjunction with Memorial Day. It was very well attended and our guest speaker was outstanding. Approximately 100 guests toured our new facilities. Enjoy those unique opportunities at your fingertips in our area.

Wishing each of you a great Summer-be safe and create many memories of those special days spent in our Town, Fenwick Island!

Audrey Serio, Mayor & Council President

PARKING REGULATIONS IN EFFECT

Parking Passes must be used on all streets May 15 to September 15. Passes are available at the Public Safety Building Monday-Friday 9AM- 4:30 PM.

On weekends and holidays, please pick up or purchase your pass at Town Hall from 9AM-3PM. No other business is conducted on weekends/holidays. The sale of a parking pass does not guarantee a parking space

Town Manager's Report

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Town Manager. As we head into the July 4th holiday, I would like to briefly inform you about what has been happening around Town Hall. First, the new public safety building was completed on time and under the projected budget. Councilmembers Bill Weisting and Gene Langan, as well as Chief Boyden, should be commended for their project management of such a well-designed facility. The building was officially dedicated and opened to the public on Memorial Day weekend. Mayor Serio, along with Town staff, coordinated a top-notch event. I was pleased to see a large number of residents attend and tour the new building. Not only does the police department work out of the building, but Captain Tim Ferry will also manage approximately thirty life guards from two office rooms in the rear. Please take note that all permits will now be processed through the foyer of the public safety building and not Town Hall.

Secondly, I had the pleasure of presenting the proposed FY2013 Operating and Capital Budgets to the Budget Committee on May 22nd. The operating budget is balanced for FY2013 and will be approved before the beginning of the fiscal year on August 1, 2012. Speaking of budgets, the FY2012 budget, the current fiscal year, is projected to have a small surplus of funds due to an increase in building permit fees due to new construction and renovation activity. The Town of Fenwick Island, like many other local, regional and national governments, is experiencing a slight economic increase due to an overall improving economy.

Third, the public works department, supervised by Bryan Reed, has been diligently cutting grass, maintaining the right-of-ways, installing beach mats and performing all other tasks to prepare the Town for the 2012 summer season. I would like to personally thank James Purnell and Vaughn McCabe for their hard work and dedication to making Fenwick Island one of the cleanest beach communities in Delaware.

Lastly, town staff and I have been working on several projects including updating the Town Web site and Facebook page, repaving the Town Hall parking lot, coordinating free movie nights on Bayard Street with the Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce (see newsletter for details), requesting DNREC to repair the dune fencing, designing the proposed Cannon Street Park Kayak Launch, setting up pet waste stations on Bunting avenue, helping the lifeguards prepare for the season, research grants to help defray future expenses and continue to provide the community a high level of municipal services.

As the weather heats up, feel free to take a moment from enjoying the beach and bay to come see us at Town Hall.

Merritt Burke IV, Town Manager

Charter & Ordinance Committee

The C&O Committee recently finished a comprehensive review of our entire code book. Our plan was to update codes, fines, penalties, and to minimize the length of some sections. The next goal is to proceed with drafting these changes into actual ordinances for approval by Council. My thanks to Pat Schuchman and the Committee members who worked on this meticulous project over the last several years.

Bill Weistling, Council Member

Environmental Committee

The Environmental Committee is pleased to announce the placement of 4 Pet Waste Stations on Bunting Avenue. One is located on the north side of Atlantic Avenue between Bunting and the beach access. The other three are located between Cannon and Dagsboro Sts., between Houston and Indian Sts., and between King and Lewes Sts. Trash containers are located at each beach access for public use. Any trash and pet waste that is not disposed of properly will eventually end up polluting the bay and ocean.

Since December, 2011 to April, 2012 the water clarity in Little Assawoman Bay has been very good, in excess of 2.2 meters, however since May the clarity dropped to 1.25 meters and even further in June to 1.1 meter. The causes of this drop are speculative, however the Spring rains and wind, plus the increase in boating are likely to effect the clarity of the bay water. For bay grasses to reestablish, light needs to reach the bottom of the bay. The clarity of the water determines if this is possible. The Environmental Committee wishes to thank Buzz Henfin for his work with the Center for Inland Bays and his monitoring the state of Little Assawoman Bay.

Mary Ellen Langan, Chair

Fenwick Island Police Department

The warmer weather is finally here and with it comes increased traffic and visitors. Please take the time to make sure you stay safe when walking, biking and crossing the highway. Cross at the marked crosswalks along Coastal Highway. Wear brightly colored clothing for high visibility and be sure to use/wear reflectors when walking and bicycling in the evening.

Our community has been lucky and has not suffered from the marked increase in crime that typically accompanies an economic downturn. We all need to do our part not to become victims—lock your car doors and don't leave items of value like cell phones out in the open. Keep your property locked. This includes your bikes, your house and the garage.

The Fenwick Island Police Department has received a small number of cell phones and chargers that can be used to call 911 in an emergency. These phones are available to property owners who do not have a cell phone and do not want that added bill. These are available at no cost to you or to the Town. If you have a need, please contact me at 302.539.2000 and I will be glad to assist.

Once again I want to thank all involved in the Public Safety Building project for providing us with a new facility. The Fenwick Island Police Department is truly fortunate to have such dedicated Council Members and citizens.

Please feel free to contact us at any time 302.539.2000 (Officer on Duty 302.542.8793). As always, in an emergency call 911.

Chief William H. Boyden

Fenwick Island Beach Patrol

Captain Tim Ferry and the FIBP are looking forward to another excellent beach season. It may be hard to believe right now, but in just a few short weeks, summer will be here. Many of our guards from last year are returning along with approximately 10 rookie guards so we anticipate having another excellent and experienced staff.

The FIBP will commence duty on Saturday, May 26, with coverage through Memorial Day weekend. Thereafter, the beach patrol will be on duty for the weekend of June 2-3 with full time coverage beginning on June 9th and extending through Labor Day (September 3rd). Weekend coverage will resume the following two weekends, September 8th -9th and 15th - 16th. As usual, the daily hours of operation will be 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The Junior Lifeguard Program will be offered again this season with weekly sessions during June, July and August. The Advanced Program will run for 5 weeks. More information is available on the Town website.

The FIBP will be assisting with the Town Bonfire again this year. Fund-raiser T-Shirts, silent auction and a 50 / 50 drawing will be available as well as games and music for both kids and adults so keep the date of July 6th open! Proceeds will help offset the cost for the USLA National Lifeguard Championships. For more information regarding tax-exempt donations that can be made on behalf of the FIBP, contact Captain Tim Ferry at tferry@fenwickisland.org.

*Tim Ferry,
Fenwick Island Beach Patrol Captain*

DART's Rt. 208 bus service starts on May 24

On Thursday, May 24, DART First State Resort Transit service starts and will operate through September 16. The Rt. 208 provides bus service along Rt. 1 to Rehoboth, or to Ocean City, MD where riders can connect with the Ocean City transit system.

The bus stops are located on DE 1 at Lewes St., Essex St., Dagsboro St., Bayard Ave., and S. Carolina St. At DART's Park & Ride located on Shuttle Rd. in Rehoboth, passengers can transfers to other buses for service to the Outlets, Lewes, downtown Rehoboth, and Long Neck.

The one-way cash fare is \$1.00, or ride all day long with a Daily Pass for \$2.10. For more information call 1-800-652-DART, or visit www.DartFirstState.com.

YARD WASTE

Beginning on 4/19 and continuing every 3rd Thursday until 11/15, Blue Hen Disposal will pick up YARD WASTE ONLY. Yard waste may be contained in plastic, paper or compostable bags or bundles not exceeding 4' in length. No container may weigh more than 50 pounds. Place bundles/containers on the street in the Town right-of-way NOT in your trash corral.

Yard waste is defined as plant material that comes from lawn maintenance and other gardening and landscaping activities including: grass, leaves, pruning, brush, shrubs, garden materials, Christmas trees, tree limbs up to 2" in diameter.

IMPORTANT! If your container/bundles contains any material other than yard waste or if it exceeds required length/weight it will be rejected!

2012 Junior Lifeguard Program

Session #1 June 22-28

Session #2 July 3-5

Session #3 July 10-12

Session #4 July 17-19

Session #5 July 24- 26

Session #6 July 31–Aug 2

All sessions run from 10:00am – 12:00pm. Advanced Program begins July 3. Please call town hall for more information or download an application

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov



Limit 15 children per session.

BE AWARE OF FLOODING AND FLOOD RISKS

Anywhere it rains, it can flood. Just because you may not have experienced a flood in the past, doesn't mean you won't in the future. Flood risk isn't just based on history, it's also based on a number of factors: rainfall, river-flow and tidal-surge data, topography, flood-control measures, and changes due to building and development.

Educate yourself. After getting flood insurance, there are several things you can do to minimize losses in your home and ensure your family's safety.

1. Safeguard your possessions.

Create a personal flood file containing information about all your possessions and keep it in a secure place, such as a safe deposit box or waterproof container. This file should have:

- A copy of your insurance policies with your agents contact information.

A household inventory: For insurance purposes, be sure to keep a written and visual (i.e., videotaped or photographed) record of all major household items and valuables, even those stored in basements, attics or garages. Create files that include serial numbers and store receipts for major appliances and electronics. Have jewelry and artwork appraised. These documents are critically important when filing insurance claims. For more information visit

www.knowyourstuff.org.

Copies of all other critical documents, including finance records or receipts of major purchases.

2. Prepare your house.

- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts.
 - Anchor any fuel tanks.
 - Raise your electrical components (switches, sockets, circuit breakers, and wiring) at least 12 inches above your home's projected flood elevation.
 - Place the furnace, water heater, washer, and dryer on cement blocks at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation.
- Move furniture, valuables, and important documents to a safe place.

3. Develop a family emergency plan.

- Create a safety kit with drinking water, canned food, first aid, blankets, a radio, and a flashlight.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by the phone and teach your children how to dial 911.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family. Know safe routes from home, work, and school that are on higher ground.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be your emergency family contact.
- Have a plan to protect your pets.

For more information on emergency preparation, talk to your insurance agent or visit Ready.gov

Pat Schuckman, Building Official

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE NEARS

All those wishing to vote in the annual election must be registered with the Town no later than June 30. A voter qualifications guide and application form is available at Town Hall or on line at www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov/

The filing deadline to run for a seat on Town Council is 3:30 PM on Friday June 15, 2012. Three council terms expire this year. You must be registered to vote for at least one year prior to the election for which you seek to be nominated. Other candidate qualifications include: a natural person who is a citizen of the United States; age 21 on or before the date of the election; and either a *bona fide* resident of the Town or a property owner in the Town; you may not have been convicted of a felony. Contact Town Clerk, Agnes DiPietrantonio, to obtain a filing package.

Election Day in Fenwick Island is scheduled for Saturday, August 4 from 1 PM—5PM

Your Tax Bill Has a New Look!

The Town of Fenwick Island now is able to generate its own tax bill and, by doing so, has saved hundreds of dollars in outside printing costs. The new tax bill is easier to understand and includes a “tear off” bottom portion for making your payment. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions on how to improve our process. Contact Town Hall with your concerns or if you do not receive your Tax Bill by August 15th.

MOBI MATS®—The Town has purchased additional Mobi Mats® for beach cross-overs. We now have mats on 10 out of 12 beaches. Look for the “Mat Map” on our web site. Let us know if you like them and how we can further improve your enjoyment of our beach.

Town Council	Council Calendar	Residential Trash Collection Schedule 2012	Please Remember... do not place trash or recycle containers out earlier than 24 hrs in advance and remember to put them away promptly within 12 hours after pick-up.
<p>Audrey Serio Mayor, President of Council aserio@fenwickisland.org</p> <p>Todd Smallwood Deputy Mayor tsmallwood@fenwickisland.org</p> <p>Diane Tingle Secretary dtingle@fenwickisland.org</p> <p>Gardner Bunting Treasurer gbunting@fenwickisland.org</p> <p>Vicki Carmean vcarmean@fenwickisland.org</p> <p>Bill Weistling wweistling@fenwickisland.org</p> <p>Gene Langan glangan@fenwickisland.org</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Merritt Burke IV Town Manager townmgr@fenwickisland.org</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Town Hall Phone Numbers Phone: 302.539.3011 Fax: 302.539.1305 Police Department Phone # Phone: 302.539.2000 Officer on Duty 302.542.8793 Emergency: 911</p>	<p>Friday, June 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Meeting 3:30pm <p>Saturday, June 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voter registration closes <p>Friday, July 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Meeting 3:30pm <p style="text-align: center;">TOWN EVENTS</p> <p>◆ Friday July 6 Town Bonfire 6:30 — 10:30 July 7 Bonfire - Rain date</p> <p>READING IN THE PARK Meet at the gazebo on Wednesdays this summer for a great reading and hands-on program. Suggested age 3-7 years</p> <p>July 4 at 10AM—Patriotic Theme and Butterflies</p> <p>July 18 at 10 AM—The Butterfly Garden—Plants and Herbs</p> <p>August 1 at 10 AM—Environmental Awareness—Protecting Seashore Plants and Animals</p> <p>August 15 at 10 AM—Underwater Plants and Animals—Field Trip to Discovery Shipwreck Museum</p> <p>Thank you to the Barefoot Gardeners of Fenwick Island for this excellent program.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Curbside Recycle Schedule</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May—September pickup every Friday • October through April pickups are <u>first & third</u> Fridays only <p style="text-align: center;">Shuffleboard League Contact Mary Wright 302.539.6697</p>	<p>The FI Lions Club aluminum can recycle bins remain at both the beach ends and behind town hall. Please continue to support their cause.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Fenwick Island Fishing Club Contact John Belian 302.537.1742</p>

Memorial Day Service and Fenwick Island Public Safety Building Dedication May 26, 2012

The Town of Fenwick Island held its annual Memorial Day Service on Saturday, May 26, 2012 followed by a dedication of the new Public Safety Building. Thank you to Commandant Fred Wise, Marine Corps League Department of Delaware for his inspirational words and to the Marine Corps League First State Detachment for providing a color guard.

Immediately following the service, Mayor Audrey Serio and the Fenwick Island Town Council dedicated the new Public Safety Building, home of the Fenwick Island Police Department and the summer home of the Fenwick Island Beach Patrol.

The Town of Fenwick Island thanks all those who worked so hard to make this project a success.

